



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

## ***Animals Enhancement Activity – ANM02-Defer Crop Production on Temporary and Seasonal Wetlands***



### **Enhancement Description**

Deferring crop production on temporary and/or seasonal wetlands until after spring migratory bird season to promote early successional wetland habitat.

### **Land Use Applicability**

This enhancement is applicable on cropland

### **Benefits**

Undisturbed temporary and seasonal wetlands provide cover and food for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wetland-dependent wildlife species. Delaying the physical disturbance of temporary and seasonal wetlands allows migratory species to reach nesting grounds in better physical condition and improves hatching success.

### **Criteria for Deferred Crop Production**

Temporary and seasonal wetlands in cropland will be left undisturbed until after dates established by NRCS State Offices.

### **Requirements for Wetland Defer Crop Production on Temporary and Seasonal Wetlands**

- ◆ This enhancement can be used to protect temporary and seasonal wetlands on all cropland acres.
- ◆ Refrain from cultivating the entire temporary/seasonal wetland until after the dates established for this enhancement.
- ◆ Haying, grazing, prescribed burning, and light disking can be used to manipulate the herbaceous vegetation after the established dates.
- ◆ For implementation of this enhancement, production should be deferred on at least 1% of cropland.

### **Documentation Requirements**

- An aerial photograph showing the areas where deferred cropping takes place
- A schedule showing when crops were planted on the deferred areas



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**Additional guidance for temporary and seasonal wetlands:**

Temporary and seasonal wetlands (typically wet meadows in hayland) will be left undisturbed from **fall harvest through June 1** each year.

Deferred cropland should represent at least 1% of all cropland in the contract.

For additional information on improving habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wetland-dependent wildlife species, refer to the following documents:

NRCS, ECS - BIOLOGY - Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Leaflet Number 17, *Shorebirds*.

<http://directives.nrcs.usda.gov/OpenNonWebContent.aspx?content=18480.wba>

NRCS, ECS - BIOLOGY - Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Leaflet Number 32, *Cropped Wetlands and Wildlife*.

<http://directives.nrcs.usda.gov/OpenNonWebContent.aspx?content=18507.wba>

USDI, FWS, Fish and Wildlife Leaflet 13, *Waterfowl Management Handbook*.

<http://www.nwrc.usgs.gov/wdb/pub/wmh/foreword.html>